



Hawaii Volcanoes National Park Trip Assistant

How Much Time?

There's a huge caveat with this park. If lava is flowing or churning in a lava lake somewhere, you do not want to miss that. No lava, no hurry to get here (in my opinion). Sure, Kilauea Iki is a fine trail, and if you're willing to hike up to Mauna Loa, then you really have something (but you'll need to be prepared for the cold

and acclimated to elevation). Beyond that, there are so many exceptional attractions on this island I wouldn't stress about trying to fit a bunch of time in to see Hawaii Volcanoes, again, unless the volcano is active (and I'd take the time to scour social media for recent images to see what others have seen—info can be misleading).

Need to Know

- For what was said to be the longest continuously active volcano, it's been all fits and starts since 2018, including a once-in-a-lifetime Mauna Loa Eruption mixed in there. The Big Island is wonderful and lava is a great reason to make a spontaneous trip here. Monitor the park website and USGS website for information on current activity.
- Pay attention to elevation. Weather is consistent, but varies greatly from sea level to Mauna Loa (13,677 feet). It's warm along the coast. Cool at the visitor center (3,980 feet), and can be snow-covered at Mauna Loa summit.

Maps

Hawaii Volcanoes National Park Map: [PDF](#) | [JPG](#)

Kilauea: [PDF](#) | [JPG](#)

Kahuku: [PDF](#) | [JPG](#)

[Google Map w/ Trails and Attractions](#)

All 63 National Parks Map: [PDF](#) | [JPG](#)

Remote Islands NPS Units Map: [PDF](#) | [JPG](#)

Highlights

Kilauea

Thurston Lava Tube

Chain of Craters Road

Mauna Loa

Holei Sea Arch



Favorite Trails
Easy
[Thurston Lava Tube](#)

Moderate
[Kilauea Iki](#)

Strenuous
[Mauna Loa](#) (closed via Observatory)

Road Trip

Here's a [Google Map](#) to help plan a Big Island trip. It's a good start, but I'd highly recommend making your own.

There's much more to our country. Here's another [Google Map](#) with points of interest across all types of public land.

For campers, here's a [Google Map](#) with National Forest campgrounds. National Park campgrounds are difficult to reserve (there are about 200!). With nearly 5,000 national forest campgrounds, you can usually pull in and find a spot.

Activities

Lava Viewing
 Hiking
 Backpacking
 Biking

Highlights

[Peepee Falls](#) (requires a swim, can be dangerous—nearby [Rainbow Falls](#) is a quick stop)

[Akaka Falls State Park](#)
 Waipio Valley (the [lookout](#) is nice, but if you make some friends, you might be able to hike to [Hiilawe Falls](#), which is tremendous, or backpack to [Waimanu Valley](#))

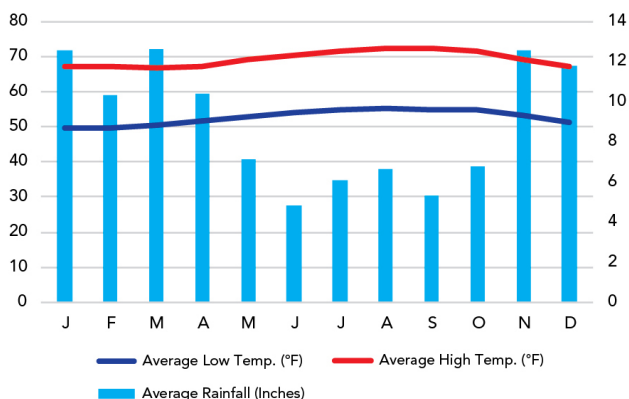
Pololu Valley (good hike to [Honokane Nui Lookout](#))
[Mauna Kea Summit](#) (sunset)
[Kua Bay](#) (no sand in winter) or [Makalawena](#) (4x4)
[Keauhou Bay Manta Snorkel](#)
[Honaunau/Two Step](#) (you used to be free to swim with dolphins here)

[South Point](#) (cliff jumping, do not jump if the surf is up) and [Green Sand Beach](#) (hike)

When To Go

Weather

Park HQ: 3,970 ft Elevation



Visitation

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